

## **Editorial...**

### **A New Chapter in the Town's Maritime History**

With the signing of a purchase and sales agreement last month, Sweetser's property owner Jack Davis and founders of the Duxbury Bay Maritime School have officially launched a project which will ensure that one of the last remaining pieces of large waterfront property in town be forever dedicated to the use and access of all junior Duxbury sailors and their parents.

The success of the proposed school now rests with the community where founders hope the support will come to make such a broad community effort work.

Once again, Davis has been a major player in helping to preserve the character of Duxbury. It wasn't too long ago that the historic Sweetser's building had fallen into a state of disrepair and the future of the former Duxbury Marina waterfront site was uncertain. Enter Jack Davis. Today the Sweetser's building is revitalized and the waterfront has a certain destiny.

Davis has also generously donated waterfront office space near the Harbormaster's building for a fundraising campaign headquarters and initial school operations. This building will be part of the 2-acre school property when the purchase is complete.

Now the community is asked to help support a \$2.4 million fundraising effort to cover the land acquisition, site work and engineering efforts. Already people have offered everything from donated services and office equipment to boats suitable for restoration.

Tony Chamberlain, director of public relations for the school, said, "We envision facilities that will appeal to all ages of Duxbury residents, especially for those who develop an interest in maritime activities later in life."

Organizing directors have formulated a mission statement and unanimously agreed to include adults in the school instead of limiting programs to students from ages 9 to 19 as originally proposed.

The private, non-profit organization will be chartered to provide a broad range of boating, sailing, and marine instruction on the Duxbury waterfront. Plans also include a number of activities that can be tied in with the educational programs already in progress at the high school.

This is an exciting "chapter" in Duxbury's 360-year history as the pages turn to the opening of the Ellison Center for the Arts, the near-completion of the Alden Library project, and now the insurance that a large tract of the Duxbury waterfront will be open to all residents for fun and enjoyment.

It is but another step in preserving the character of this town we love.

Anyone wishing to make donations or receive further information may call the Duxbury Bay Maritime School's newly established waterfront office at Mattwkeesett Landing at 934-7655. Mail can be sent to the school at PO Box 263A, Snug Harbor, 02331.

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